

GENERAL OVERVIEW

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Mission

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) was created in 1949 by an act of the California State Legislature and is a special district. The law that created the Agency gives it the authority to produce and furnish surface water and groundwater for beneficial uses; to control floodwaters; to generate electricity; and to provide recreational facilities in connection with the Agency's facilities. Legislation enacted in 1994 added the treatment and disposal of wastewater to the Agency's responsibilities. Increasing environmental regulations, including the listing of three Russian River salmonid species as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act, have influenced the Agency's water supply, flood control and wastewater management activities. Consequently, the Agency actively participates in and funds projects involving natural resource (e.g., fisheries, wetlands, etc.) protection, recovery and enhancement.

Special Revenue Funds – Flood Control Zones

The Special Revenue Funds described below are used to construct and improve flood control facilities and to provide program support services for the flood control zones in Sonoma County. Common types of features constructed to help alleviate flooding are channelization works, bypass conduit systems, and diversion systems. In addition, natural systems are maintained to provide flood control capacity.

Sonoma County is divided into nine major watershed areas. Flood control zones were created encompassing eight of these watersheds. Zone 1A (Laguna-Mark West), Zone 2A (Petaluma River), and Zone 3A (Valley of the Moon/Upper Sonoma Creek) have the most active flood control programs. Zone 4A (Upper Russian River) and Zone 6A (Dry Creek) are completely inactive. Zone 5A (Lower Russian River) and Zone 8A (South Coastal) are less active than Zones 1A, 2A, and 3A, with only ongoing maintenance of existing facilities being performed. Zone 7A (North Coastal) has minimal fund reserves earning interest. The ninth watershed area, covering the lower portions of Sonoma Creek and the Petaluma River, was never established as a zone.

Flood control zones were created to reduce the frequency of flooding within the zone through construction of adequate facilities to safely handle projected storm flows. An appointed advisory committee for each active zone meets several times each year to make recommendations to the Agency's Board of Directors regarding priorities for construction of drainage facilities within each zone. Each proposed project is evaluated using criteria covering historical flooding problems, areas benefited, alternative funding available,

special safety and health factors, coordination with other public projects, and environmental concerns.

Flood Control Zone 1A is the watershed area that drains into and includes the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Mark West Creek.

Flood Control Zone 2A is the watershed area in Sonoma County that drains into and includes the Petaluma River, with the exception of the most southerly portion of the area, which consists primarily of reclaimed tidelands.

Flood Control Zone 3A is the watershed area in Sonoma County that drains into and includes Sonoma Creek, generally north of Highway 121.

The primary funding source for capital projects in Zone 1A and 2A is a voter-approved ten-year benefit assessment program for flood control, which ends June 30, 2007. In addition, some funding is received from the ad valorem property taxes. Funds for Zone 3A are received only from the ad valorem property taxes. Some additional funds are sometimes available from cities, the County, and community development sources to construct flood control projects.

In this 5-year plan, there are 12 projects identified for funding in Zone 1A, seven projects identified for funding in Zone 2A, and two projects identified for funding in Zone 3A. The Agency will not take the lead on all of these projects, but will provide administration services and funding for all of the projects through the flood control zones. Funding provided by partner entities are not included in the project costs presented in this plan.

Water Supply

Russian River Projects Fund

The Russian River Projects Fund is used (1) to pay the costs for water supply and erosion control activities along the Russian River arising from assurances given by the Agency for the construction of the Coyote Valley Dam Project and Warm Springs Dam Project; (2) to pay the costs incurred by the Agency in securing and defending the Agency's appropriate water rights necessary for the realization of the full benefit of those projects; (3) to pay the costs incurred by the Agency in operating the Coyote Valley Dam and Warm Springs Dam Projects, (4) to pay the costs for water supply issues arising from activities of the Potter Valley Project; and (5) fishery enhancement programs to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

In this 5-year plan, the Russian River Projects Fund provides for continued studies of various proceedings for the Potter Valley Project and design of the Mumford Fish Passage.

General District Funds

These funds include the General Fund and the Spring Lake Park Fund.

The Spring Lake Park Fund provides for occasional construction projects in Spring Lake Park. Spring Lake Park is a public park owned by the Agency and operated under contract by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department.

In this 5-year capital plan, there are no identified capital projects.

Internal Service Fund

The Internal Service Fund provides for: (1) building improvements to the Administration building, Service Center, and Operations and Maintenance building at the Agency's West College Avenue site; (2) building improvements to the maintenance facilities located at the Airport Treatment Plant; and (3) funding of a new building site and other land purchases.

In this 5-year plan, the Internal Service Fund provides for the Riverfront Park Restoration Project.

Enterprise Funds

Water Transmission System

The Agency is the primary provider of potable water to eight water contractors. The water contractors include the cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma, Rohnert Park, and Cotati, and the Valley of the Moon, Forestville and North Marin Water Districts. The Agency is responsible for the planning, environmental review, design, and construction of capital improvement projects to expand the water transmission system that serves the water contractors as required under the terms and conditions specified in the "Eleventh Amended Agreement for Water Supply" (Eleventh Amended Agreement). Construction of the facilities specified in the Eleventh Amended Agreement is projected to occur over the next thirty years.

The water contractors' advisory committee (Water Advisory Committee) meets approximately monthly with the Agency to discuss the scheduling and financing of water transmission system projects and other water transmission system issues. Capital improvements made to the water transmission system are funded from the Storage Facilities Fund, the Pipeline Facilities Fund, and the Common Facilities Fund to meet the needs of the water contractors for the facilities identified under the Eleventh Amended Agreement. Capital projects have been scheduled to accommodate funding limitations, to provide the least disruption to existing facilities and water contractors, and to allow an

orderly and timely start-up to meet the conditions of the Eleventh Amended Agreement or any new laws or regulations governing drinking water suppliers. Construction of Collector No. 6 began in the late spring of 2001. The Agency anticipates Collector 6 will be completed by the summer of 2004. Pending completion of Collector 6, the Agency's water transmission system has been determined to be temporarily impaired for providing reliable peak production capacity. In February 2001 the Agency entered into a "Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Water Transmission System Capacity Allocation During Temporary Impairment" with its water contractors, the Town of Windsor, and the Marin Municipal Water District to address issues associated with the temporary impairment, including the allocation of the reliable water production capacity.

This 5-year plan includes funding for 18 projects related to storage, pipeline, and common facilities for the water transmission system. The total projected cost for these projects is approximately \$59.6 million. Included in these projects is the Water Supply and Transmission System Project and individual, specific projects identified in the Water Supply and Transmission System Project. The Agency is identifying potential water supply sources and facilities to meet the expected future water demands identified for each water contractor as part of the Water Supply and Transmission System Project.

Sanitation Zones

The Agency owns and operates six sanitation zones, which include Airport- Larkfield-Wikiup, Geyserville, Graton, Penngrove and Sea Ranch. The sanitation zones operate as zones of benefit, similar to the Agency's flood control zones.

Sanitation projects are scheduled according to the specific plans for each zone. Funding of projects may be accomplished by Federal and/or State grants, state revolving fund loans, certificates of participation, notes, revenue bonds, or on a pay-as-you-go basis.

This 5-year plan includes funding for projects to replace, upgrade, or expand the collection, treatment, and disposal/reclamation facilities for most of the sanitation zones.

Sanitation Districts

The Agency is also responsible for the overall management (including operation) of five County Sanitation Districts. The five districts include Forestville, Occidental, Russian River, Sonoma Valley, and South Park. Each County Sanitation District exists as a separate legal entity as a special district.

This 5-year plan includes funding for projects to replace, upgrade, or expand the collection, treatment, and disposal/reclamation facilities for most of the County Sanitation Districts.

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY - CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING SUMMARY
FY 2003/04 THROUGH FY 2007/08

FUNDING SOURCE / NAME	5 YEAR TOTAL FUNDING	PROJECTED FUNDS				
		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
FEDERAL / STATE						
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Federal / State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCWA GENERAL FUND						
SCWA General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	
Total SCWA General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
NON-COUNTY FUNDS						
Laguna-Mark West Zone 1A	25,890,325	8,637,262	6,085,772	4,111,947	3,469,136	3,586,208
Petaluma River Zone 2A	11,199,500	2,732,700	1,075,700	5,263,700	1,063,700	1,063,700
Valley of the Moon Zone 3A	2,275,454	379,000	987,600	296,630	306,112	306,112
Water Supply Fund	313,000	113,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
General District Fund	452,000	113,000	113,000	113,000	113,000	113,000
Internal Service Fund	1,200,000	1,200,000	0	0	0	0
Storage Facilities Fund	16,137,500	3,907,500	526,500	11,643,500	60,000	0
Pipeline Facilities Fund	32,875,000	3,500,000	15,065,000	14,000,000	310,000	0
Common Facilities Fund	7,025,000	4,125,000	950,000	650,000	700,000	600,000
Maint - Bldg Improvements Funds	8,675,375	6,412,375	1,807,000	152,000	152,000	152,000
Sanitation	30,527,500	13,244,500	6,553,000	7,770,000	1,705,000	1,255,000
Total Non-County Funds	136,570,654	44,364,337	33,213,572	44,050,777	7,928,948	7,126,020
UNDETERMINED FUNDS						
Undetermined Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Undetermined Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	136,683,654	44,364,337	33,213,572	44,050,777	7,928,948	7,126,020